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Legal Support Fund Q&A

What is the Legal Support Fund?
The Legal Support Fund is available to athletes, athlete support personnel or other people who DFSNZ has notified could be in breach of an anti-doping rule violation. It ensures that everyone has access to legal assistance and that those who need a lawyer but cannot afford one, can have one.

Are the Legal Support Panel lawyer's independent?
Yes.

What is funded?
The Legal Support Fund is intended to cover the initial legal advice after the commencement of the results management process. This is when a person has been notified by Drug Free Sport New Zealand (DFSNZ) that they are potentially in breach of an anti-doping rule violation and/or that DFSNZ is intending to commence proceedings against the person.

What do I have to do to get legal support funding?
To get legal support funding, you will need to engage a lawyer from the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand's legal assistance panel. The Sports Tribunal has appointed a panel of independent lawyers who will act as an Affected Person's lawyer.

If you have any questions about the Legal Assistance Panel, please contact the Sports Tribunal at info@sportstribunal.org.nz or on 0800 55 66 80.

Is there a cut-off date by which I have to have engaged a lawyer from the Legal Assistance Panel?
No, you may access the Legal Support Fund at any time following the commencement of the results management process and up until the Sports Tribunal or New Zealand Rugby Judicial Committee have issued a decision on the anti-doping rule violation.

Can I choose any lawyer to represent me?
No, to have access to the Legal Support Fund you must choose a lawyer from the Sports Tribunal's Legal Assistance Panel.

Do I have to repay the cost of legal funding even if I am unsuccessful at the Sports Tribunal?
No, there is no requirement to repay the legal fees paid on your behalf.

Can the legal support lawyer help me with anything other than my possible anti-doping rule violation?
No. If you are using the Legal Support Fund, your Legal Support Panel lawyer can only help you in relation to the anti-doping rule violation. They are not able to help you with a civil claim, a criminal case or any other legal matter.

Can I use a lawyer who is not on the panel?
No, not under the Legal Support Fund; but any lawyer may otherwise by retained at the Affected Person's cost.